

1521 Oull Road
Kalamazoo, MI 49048
(269) 226 7001

BORGESS HEALTH

April 30.2007

Dr. Jeffrey Taylor, Executive Director
Michigan Public Health Institute
Central Administration
2436 Woodlake Circle Drive, Suite 300
Okeanos, MI 48864

Dear Dr. Taylor:

I am writing to convey the support of Borgess Health to the State of Michigan's application to a Federal Communications Commission pilot project to expand state and regional broadband networks and services in rural underserved areas of Michigan.

Providing healthcare services via telemedicine offers many advantages. It can make specialty care more accessible to underserved rural and urban populations. Video consultations from a rural clinic to a specialist can alleviate prohibitive travel and associated costs for patients. Videoconferencing also opens up new possibilities for continuing education or training for isolated or rural health practitioners, who may not be able to leave a rural practice to take part in professional meetings or educational opportunities.

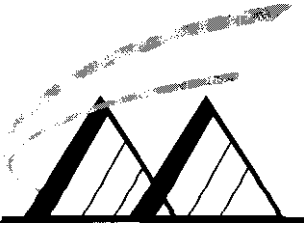
As the state of Michigan continues to place a priority on using information technology to drive quality improvements and efficiency in Michigan's health care system, this project will help to further Governor Granholm's goal of extending health information technology to every health care provider.

We are excited about the leadership role that the State of Michigan is taking in HIE and are committed to supporting and participating in the collaborative efforts of MDCH and MDIT to further the overall goal of improved healthcare in Michigan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Noseworthy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "P" and "N".

Paul Noseworthy
Director, Regional Networking



CHEBOYGAN MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

April 20, 2007

Dr. Jeffrey Taylor, Executive Director
Michigan Public Health Institute
Central Administration
2436 Woodlake Circle Drive, Suite 300
Okemos, MI 48864

RE: FCC Telemedicine Pilot Program

Dear Dr. Taylor,

On behalf of Cheboygan Memorial Hospital, I am happy to support the State of Michigan's application for a Federal Communications Commission pilot project to expand state and regional broadband networks and services in rural areas of Michigan.

Rural providers in northern Lower Michigan recognize that in order to acquire, support, and maintain health information technologies, providers must collaborate and any efforts must provide value to those stakeholders committing resources to the initiative. With the support of the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) and the Michigan Department of Information Technology (MDIT), Cheboygan Memorial Hospital along with the other NCC member hospitals recently engaged other clinical providers throughout the region to share resources in the development of a Regional Health Information Exchange (HIE).

This HIE project and the FCC's pilot project share a similar goal: to improve healthcare for all Michigan residents by taking specific aim at expanding broadband networks dedicated to healthcare in rural areas. Bringing broadband internet access to the public hospitals and primary care clinics serving critical populations will improve quality of care and potentially lower healthcare costs for the entire state.

We are excited about the leadership role that the State of Michigan is taking in HIE and are committed to supporting and participating in the collaborative efforts of MDCH and MDIT to further the overall goal of improved healthcare in Michigan.

Sincerely,

Ted Anderson
Senior Vice President/CFO



CMU • RC

CENTRAL MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
RESEARCH CORPORATION

April 30th, 2007

Dr. Jeffrey Taylor, Executive Director
Michigan Public Health Institute
Central Administration
2436 Woodlake Circle Drive, Suite 300
Okemos, MI 48864

Dear Dr. Taylor:

On behalf of Central Michigan University Research Corporation (CMU-RC) I want to extend a strong statement of encouragement and support for the State of Michigan's application for a Federal Communications Commission for regional broadband expansion.

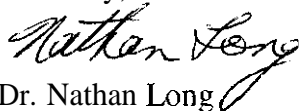
This project fully aligns with CMU-RC's mission to help foster economic development throughout the rural areas in central Michigan and facilitate technology transfer from academia to industry.

As healthcare continues to be a significant portion of the nation's gross domestic product, the overall competitiveness for Michigan communities hinges on the recognition that health is a community asset. Bringing broadband internet access to the public hospitals and primary care clinics serving critical populations will improve quality of care and potentially lower healthcare costs for our region.

Nowhere is this more true than by targeting the medically underserved for potential use of tele-health services, many of whom reside in rural areas throughout central Michigan. Enabling the broader community to access the benefits of telemedicine services to areas of the country most in need for those services offers many advantages that will, over the long term, translate into greater economic benefit. Not the least of which is the potential to make specialty care more accessible and, in turn, help the region become a more attractive location for establishing new companies.

We are encouraged by the leadership role that the State of Michigan is taking. The benefits of strengthening healthcare through the use of information technology in Michigan by MDCH and MDIT will have broad impact on both the overall population's health and economic well being through out the state of Michigan.

Sincerely,



Dr. Nathan Long
President/CEO
Central Michigan University Research Corporation



May 1, 2007

Dr. Jeffrey Taylor, Executive Director
Michigan Public Health Institute
Central Administration
2436 Woodlake Circle Drive, Suite 300
Okemos, MI 48864

Dear Dr. Taylor:

I am writing to convey the full support of The Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow College of Health Professions at Central Michigan University for the State of Michigan's application for a Federal Communications Commission pilot project to expand state and regional broadband networks and services in rural underserved areas of Michigan.

As the state of Michigan continues to place a priority on using information technology to drive health information systems as a means of improving the health care of all Michigan residents, it is imperative that priority funding be made available.

We are excited about the leadership role that the State of Michigan is taking in HIE and are committed to supporting and participating in the collaborative efforts of MDCH and MDIT to further the overall goal of improved healthcare in Michigan.

Health care practitioners in rural areas often times have limited access to much needed resources. The opportunity to become informed on the use and application of the newest medications, essential patient and family teaching and to check potential drug-drug interactions is often hampered in rural and medically underserved communities because specialists frequently reside in more urban settings. Improving access to information technology resources in rural communities can help improve quality of care for patients, while improving efficiency in the delivery of care and keeping costs down.

The central goal of the FCC project is to broadband internet access to the public hospitals and primary care clinics serving critical populations will improve quality of care and potentially lower healthcare costs for the entire state.

The foremost goal of this FCC project is to improve healthcare for all Michiganians by taking specific aim at addressing the medically underserved. Many of whom reside in rural areas. Bringing broadband internet access to the public hospitals and primary care clinics serving critical populations will improve quality of care and potentially lower healthcare costs for the entire state. The objective is to bring the benefits of telemedicine services to areas of the country in most need for those services.

Providing healthcare services via telemedicine offers many advantages. It can make specialty care more accessible to underserved rural and urban populations. Video consultations from a rural clinic to a specialist can alleviate prohibitive travel and associated costs for patients. Videoconferencing also opens up new possibilities for continuing education or training for isolated or rural health practitioners, who may not be able to leave a rural practice to take part in professional meetings or educational opportunities.

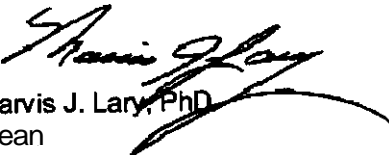
As the state of Michigan continues to place a priority on using information technology to drive quality improvements and efficiency in Michigan's health care system, this project will help to further Governor Granholm's goal of extending health information technology to every health care system.

"It's easy to forget that new technology cannot only save lives directly, but it can also improve the quality, safety, and efficiency of medical care for our citizens."

We are excited about the leadership role that the State of Michigan is taking in this effort to strengthen healthcare using information technology in Michigan and are committed to supporting and participating in the collaborative efforts of MDCH and MDIT to further the overall goal of improved healthcare in Michigan.

I pledge my full support as Dean of The Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow College of Health Professions at Central Michigan University for this important project. It will impact in a positive way, not only the careers of all health professions students as they prepare to serve the people of Michigan through their many disciplines, but for the quality of health care for all Michigan residents.

Sincerely yours.


Marvis J. Lary, PhD
Dean



Internet2
Office of the President & CEO
1000 Oakbrook Drive, Suite 300
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
(734) 913-4250
(734) 913-4255 (fax)
www.internet2.edu

April 30, 2007

Dr. Jeffrey Taylor, Executive Director
Michigan Public Health Institute
Central Administration
2436 Woodlake Circle Drive, Suite 300
Okemos, MI 48864

Dear Dr. Taylor:

On behalf of Internet2, I am pleased to write in strong support of the proposal entitled
'Pilot Program for Enhanced Access to Advanced Telecommunications and Information Services' you are submitting to the Federal Communication Commission in response to the Rural Health Care Support Mechanism, WE Docket No. 02-60

This proposal's strengths include its:

- Innovative approach to the connection of a broad range of health care providers and the expansion of the statewide backbone to serve their needs;
- Use of Internet2's high bandwidth network to provide access to unmatched content and support;
- Effective partnership linking major academic biomedical research institutions (including the University of Michigan, Michigan State University, and Wayne State University) and rural health centers, federally qualified health clinics, and health care centers of the twelve tribes within the state; and
- Likelihood of improving Michigan's economy, providing vital links for disaster preparedness and emergency response, enhancing electronic information exchange and record-keeping, and cost-effectively improving statewide health care.

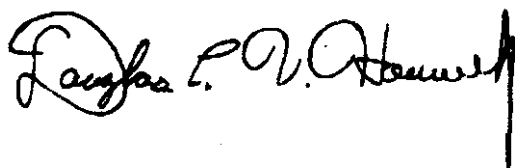
The proposal will utilize the new Internet2 Network and the regional networks to expand the telehealth infrastructure and provide high speed connections to all 152 Federally Designated Rural Health Clinics, 15 Tribal Medical Centers and the 72 Federally Qualified Health Clinics. By incorporating Internet2's middleware, security, and performance measurement tools, it also will provide secure exchange of medical records, permit remote access to expert diagnosis and treatment, increase cost-efficiencies by reducing costs associated with travel, and enhance

training and research collaboration with secure multi-site videoconferencing. The use of Internet2's network not only will provide an effective, secure, and system for statewide and national telehealth and telemedicine, but also will ensure that training and other integrated resources will be incorporated to optimize the network's utility. In doing so, the regional network that will be created will facilitate the exchange of reliable data, and digital image, voice, and video transmissions with quality to enhance real-time clinical consultation.

Internet2 is the foremost U.S. advanced networking consortium. Led by the research and education community since 1996, Internet2 promotes the missions of its members by providing both leading-edge network capabilities and unique partnership opportunities that together facilitate the development, deployment and use of revolutionary Internet technologies. The Internet2 Network and its member community innovations in middleware, security, educational networking, and partnerships with premier federal agencies such as NIH are uniquely positioned to deliver high performance, flexible, low-cost connectivity in support of healthcare needs on a sustained basis on the local, regional, state, and national levels. In the process, these partnerships are likely to expand technological capabilities, increase the range of geographical access to sophisticated treatment modalities, and redefine the parameters of disease diagnosis, treatment, and management.

We are pleased to offer our strong support for this innovative proposal, which will enhance the provision of telehealth and telemedicine services regionally and nationwide.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Douglas E. Van Houweling". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long vertical line extending downwards from the end.

Douglas E. Van Houweling
President and CEO, Internet2

MICHIGAN STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY

120 WEST SAGINAW STREET, EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN 48826-0950, PHONE 337-1351

AREA CODE 517

FAX 517/337-2490

May 1, 2007

Jeffrey Taylor, PhD
Executive Director
Michigan Public Health Institute
Central Administration
2436 Woodlake Circle Drive, Suite 300
Okemos, MI 48864

Dear Doctor Taylor:

I am writing to convey the full support of the Michigan State Medical Society for the State of Michigan's application for a Federal Communications Commission pilot project to expand state and regional broadband networks and services in rural underserved areas of Michigan.

The foremost goal of this project is to improve healthcare for all patients by taking specific aim at addressing the medically underserved, many of whom reside in rural areas. Bringing broadband internet access to the public hospitals and primary care clinics serving critical populations will improve quality of care and potentially lower healthcare costs for the entire state. The objective is to bring the benefits of telemedicine services to areas of the country in most need for those services.

We are excited about the leadership role that the State of Michigan is taking in health information and are committed to supporting and participating in the collaborative efforts of the Michigan Department of Community Health and Michigan Department of Information Technology to further the overall goal of improved healthcare in Michigan.

Sincerely,



AppaRao Mukkamala, MD
President

c: Kevin A. Kelly, Executive Director

Bay Mills Indian Community
Brimley, Michigan 49715

Grand Traverse Band
of Ottawa & Chippewa Indians
Suttons Bay, Michigan 49682

Hannahville Indian Community
Wilson, Michigan 49896

Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe
Mt Pleasant, Michigan 48858

Little Traverse Bay
Bands of Odawa Indians
Harbor Springs, Michigan 49740

Nottawaseppi Band of
Huron Potawatomi
Fulton, Michigan 49052



An Equal Opportunity Employer

Keweenaw Bay Indian Community
Baraga, Michigan 49908

Lac Vieux Desert
Indian Community
Watersmeet, Michigan 49969

Sault Ste. Marie
Tribe of Chippewa Indians
Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan 49783

Pokagon Band of
Potawatomi Indians
Dowagiac, Michigan 49047

Match-E-Be-Nash-She
(Gun Lake Tribe)
Dorr, Michigan 49323

2956 Ashmun Street, Suite A / Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan 49783

Phone: (906) 632-6896 Main Fax: 906-632-1810 Health Services Fax: 906-635-4212

April 17, 2007

Jeffrey R. Taylor, Ph.D.
Executive Director
MPHI
2436 Woodlake Circle, Suite 300
Okemos, MI 48864

Dear Jeff,

Please consider this a letter of support for your application to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to provide funding to support the construction of a state broadband network and services over that network. It is my understanding that the objective is to bring the benefits of telemedicine services to areas of Michigan in most need for those services, which includes our American Indian tribal clinics and community health centers.

It is well understood by tribal health care practitioners that rural areas often times have limited access to expert consultants and resource knowledge bases. The opportunity to become informed on the use and application of the newest medications, essential patient and family teaching and to check potential drug-drug interactions is hampered in rural and medically underserved communities because specialists often reside in more urban settings. This project will allow Michigan rural-based tribal communities to take an active role in improving healthcare for all Michiganders by taking specific aim at addressing the medically underserved. Bringing broadband internet access to the public hospitals, tribal clinics and primary care clinics serving critical populations will improve quality of care and potentially lower healthcare costs for the entire state.

As Michigan continues to place a priority on using information technology to drive quality improvements and efficiency in Michigan's health care system, the Tribes are anxious to keep in step with the rest of the State.

The Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan (ITC) look forward to full membership in the project team assembled to execute this project. We are very familiar with the MPHI and have enjoyed our work together to accomplish an impressive list of deliverables, and the same we are certain that this partnership will guarantee success on this project.

Sincerely,

Rick Haverkate, MPH
Director of Public Health



Alliance for Health

1345 Monroe Ave NW • Suite 256 ♦ Grand Rapids MI 49505
616.248.3820 ♦ Fax 616.248.9170 • e-mail alliance@ah.org

May 1, 2007

Dr. Jeffrey Taylor, Executive Director
Michigan Public Health Institute
Central Administration
2436 Woodlake Circle Drive, Suite 300
Okemos, MI 48864

Dear Dr. Taylor,

The Alliance for Health is pleased to support the application being submitted to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) by a project team representing a broad constituent base in Michigan. This proposal seeks funding under a new FCC pilot project that supports the construction of state or regional broadband networks and services over those networks. The objective is to bring the benefits of telemedicine services to those areas of the country that are in the greatest need for such services.

Michigan places a priority on using information technology to drive quality improvements and efficiency in its health care system. Governor Granholm's 2007 State of the State Address highlighted the state's goal of extending health information technology to every health care setting to improve the quality, safety, and efficiency of medical care for our citizens. Our state enacted legislation to support regional health information exchanges within medical trading areas throughout the state. Michigan's Health Information Network (MiHIN) has developed a very comprehensive blueprint to enable doctors to get appropriate clinical information such as medical histories at the point of delivery of services and to allow Michigan citizens to have improved access to their own information.

The project team that came together to develop this project is a combination of professionals from the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH), the Michigan Department of Information Technology (MDIT) and the Michigan Public Health Institute (MPHI). They provided leadership in developing the proposal to the FCC, and included many other stakeholders in this effort. This collaborative drew on past successful initiatives such as the MiHIN Conduit to Care Project and Health Information Security and Privacy Collaborative (HISPC) Project. This collaborative team history will assure that this project is successfully delivered.


The Alliance for Health is coordinating the development of a regional information exchange in the West Michigan medical Trading Area, representing 13 counties of the state. We were pleased to be able to assist in developing the statewide application and assuring that it is closely coordinated with the active implementation efforts going on at the regional level so as to assure continuity and effectiveness while minimizing unneeded effort. We understand that the overarching goal of the project is to improve healthcare for all residents by addressing the medically underserved. Bringing broadband internet access to the public hospitals and primary care clinics serving critical populations will improve quality of care and potentially lower healthcare costs for the entire state. Health care practitioners in our rural areas often have limited access to expert consultants and resource knowledge bases. There are limitations in rural and medically underserved areas

because of the digital divide, or a lack of access to information technology resources in rural communities.

We are excited about the leadership role that the State of Michigan is taking in health information exchange and are committed to supporting and participating in the collaborative efforts of MDCH and MDIT to further the overall goal of improved healthcare in Michigan.

Please accept our support of this application and **be** assured of our continuing participation in this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lody Zwarensteijn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lody" being more prominent.

Lodewyk (Lody) P. Zwarensteijn

President



GENERAL HEALTH SYSTEM

580W. College Avenue • Marquette, Michigan 49855 • 906-228-9440 • Toll free 1-800-562-9753 • Website: www.mgh.org

April 30, 2007

Dr. Jeffrey Taylor, Executive Director
Michigan Public Health Institute
Central Administration
2436 Woodlake Circle Drive, Suite 300
Okemos, MI 48864

Dear Dr. Taylor:

Marquette General Health System is pleased to convey support for the State of Michigan's application to the Federal Communications Commission for the Rural Health Care Pilot Program.

As the regional referral center in the Upper Peninsula, we are taking the lead in developing mechanisms for Health Information Exchange in the region. In addition, MGHS is the hub of the Upper Peninsula Telehealth Network, a robust 42 site network conducting clinical telemedicine encounters as well as distance education for health care professionals. Technology, we have learned, provides a vital link health care organizations in our region and enables the delivery of affordable, efficient and high quality service to patients in our rural locales.

We look forward to expansion and enhancement of broadband infrastructure in our state and the new capabilities for addressing the healthcare needs of residents that will undoubtedly arise from this endeavor. In addition to our support, we are pleased to offer our knowledge and experience in this collaborative effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William R. Nemacheck'.

William R. Nemacheck.
Chief Executive Officer



MICHIGAN HEALTH & HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

Advocating ~~for~~ hospitals and the patients they serve.

April 22, 2007

Dr. Jeffrey Taylor, Executive Director
Michigan Public Health Institute
Central Administration
2436 Woodlake Circle Drive, Suite 300
Okemos, MI 48864

Dear Dr. Taylor:

The Michigan Health & Hospital Association (MHA) is pleased to provide this letter, which documents its support for Michigan's application for a Federal Communications Commission (FCC) pilot project to expand state and regional broadband networks and services in rural and underserved areas of Michigan.

The MHA is a statewide association dedicated to improving the health of Michigan residents through collaborative efforts with health care providers, community agencies and citizens. The MHA is composed of a blend of hospitals, health systems and other organizations involved in health care. We are committed to becoming the most effective health care advocate in Michigan. In that role, we will promote better health within our communities; improve the quality of patient care; and improve coverage for high-quality, affordable health care services.

The primary goal of this FCC project is to bring the benefits of telemedicine services to Michigan residents who are medically underserved, many of whom reside in rural areas. Bringing broadband internet access to the public hospitals and primary care clinics serving critical populations will improve telemedicine services. This, in turn, will provide greater access, improve the quality of care, and potentially, lower healthcare costs for the entire state.

The MHA supports the leadership role that the state of Michigan is taking in health information exchanges and it is committed to supporting and participating in the collaborative efforts of the Michigan Department of Community Health and Michigan Department of Information Technology to further the overall goal of improved health care in Michigan.

Sincerely,

Spencer Johnson
President

SPENCER JOHNSON, PRESIDENT

CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS ♦ 6215 West St. Joseph Highway ♦ Lansing, Michigan 48917 ♦ (517) 323-3443 ♦ Fax (517) 323-0946
CAPITOL ADVOCACY CENTER ♦ 110 West Michigan Avenue, Suite 1200 ♦ Lansing, Michigan 48933 ♦ (517) 323-3443 ♦ Fax (517) 703-8620
awwnha.org

■

**Michigan
Center for
Rural
Health**

April 24, 2007

Dr. Jeffrey Taylor, Executive Director
Michigan Public Health Institute
Central Administration
2436 Woodlake Circle Drive, Suite 300
Okemos, MI 48864

Dear Dr. Taylor:

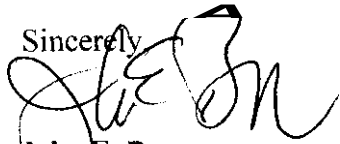
I am pleased to support the State of Michigan's application for a Federal Communications Commission pilot project to expand state and regional broadband networks and services in rural areas of Michigan. As you know, the Michigan Center for Rural Health was formed in 1991 as part of a nation-wide, federal and state initiative to recognize the importance of rural health care. Our mission is "to coordinate, plan, and advocate for the improved health of Michigan's rural residents."

Over 1.8 million **people** (almost 19% of Michigan's population) reside in rural areas of Michigan. Having access to local quality health care is critical to the success of these communities. This project will help ensure a greater level of access to healthcare and health education previously unavailable to those in rural areas.

The goal of telemedicine is to overcome time and distance barriers that separate the healthcare provider from the patients in order to improve the level of care. Bringing broadband internet access to the hospitals and primary care clinics serving rural Michigan's rural population will improve quality of care for a significant portion of Michigan's population.

We are eager to see the State of Michigan move forward in development of HIE. The MCRH will continue to support the collaborative efforts of MDCH and MDIT to further the overall goal of improved rural healthcare in Michigan.

Sincerely,



John E. Barnas
Executive Director
Michigan Center for Rural Health

■

*B-218 West Fee Hall
Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI 48824-1316
Phone 517-432-1066 • Fax 517-432-0007
www.corn.msu.edu/micrh*



April 25, 2007

Dr. Jeffrey Taylor, Executive Director
Michigan Public Health Institute
Central Administration
2436 Woodlake Circle Drive, Suite 300
Okemos, MI 48864

Dear Dr. Taylor:

The Michigan Primary Care Association (MPCA) wishes to extend support for Michigan's application for a Federal Communications Commission pilot project to expand state and regional broadband networks and services in rural underserved areas of Michigan.

The MPCA is a membership association representing non-profit providers and affiliates of community-based primary care centers statewide, with the main focus of working to promote, support and develop comprehensive, accessible and affordable quality primary health care services to everyone in Michigan.

The foremost goal of this FCC project is to improve healthcare for all Michigan residents by taking specific aim at addressing the medically underserved, many of whom reside in rural and economically challenged areas. Bringing broadband internet access to the public hospitals and primary care centers serving critical populations will improve quality of care and potentially lower healthcare costs for the entire state. We strongly support the objective of bringing the benefits of telemedicine services to areas of the country in most need for those services.

Providing healthcare services via telemedicine offers many advantages. It can make specialty care more accessible to underserved rural and urban populations. Video consultations from a rural clinic to a specialist can alleviate travel and associated costs for patients, which are major barriers to care. Videoconferencing also opens up new possibilities for continuing education or training for isolated or rural health practitioners, who may not be able to leave a rural practice to take part in professional meetings or educational opportunities.

We support the leadership role that the State of Michigan is taking in HIE and are committed to participating in the collaborative efforts of MDCH and MDIT to further the overall goal of improved healthcare in Michigan. All our best to you in this application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kim E. Sibilsky". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kim" being the most prominent.

Kim E. Sibilsky
Executive Director

MidMichigan Health

4005 Oakland Drive
Midland, Michigan 48677
Phone: (989) 539-5115
www.midmichigan.org

April 27, 2007

Dr. Jeffrey Taylor
Michigan Public Health Institute
2436 Woodlake Circle Drive, Suite 300
Okemos, MI 48864

Dear Dr. Taylor:

I am writing to convey the full support of MidMichigan Health for the State of Michigan's application for a Federal Communications Commission pilot project to expand state and regional broadband networks and services in rural underserved areas of Michigan.

Health care practitioners in rural areas often times have limited access to much needed resources. The opportunity to become informed on the use and application of the newest medications, essential patient and family teaching and to check potential drug-drug interactions is often hampered in rural and medically underserved communities because specialists frequently reside in more urban settings. Improving access to information technology resources in rural communities can help improve quality of care for patients, while improving efficiency in the delivery of care and keeping costs down.

Providing healthcare services via telemedicine offers many advantages. It can make specialty care more accessible to underserved rural and urban populations. Video consultations from a rural clinic to a specialist can alleviate prohibitive travel and associated costs for patients. Videoconferencing also opens up new possibilities for continuing education or training for isolated or rural health practitioners, who may not be able to leave a rural practice to take part in professional meetings or educational opportunities.

As the state of Michigan continues to place a priority on using information technology to drive quality improvements and efficiency in Michigan's health care system, this project will help to further Governor Granholm's goal of extending health information technology to every health care.

We are excited about the leadership role that the State of Michigan is taking in this effort to strengthen healthcare through the use of information technology in Michigan and are committed to supporting and participating in the collaborative efforts of MDCH and MDIT to further the overall goal of improved healthcare in Michigan.

Regards,



Harlan Goodrich

MAT MIDWEST ALLIANCE FOR TELEHEALTH & TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES

...in office: MARQUETTE GENERAL HEALTH SYSTEM • 420 West Magnetic Street • Marquette, MI 49855
Phone: 906-225-4733 • Toll free: 1-866-603-4733 • Fax: 906-225-7696

April 30, 2007

Dr. Jeffrey Taylor, Executive Director
Michigan Public Health Institute
Central Administration
2436 Woodlake Circle Drive, Suite 300
Okemos, MI 48864

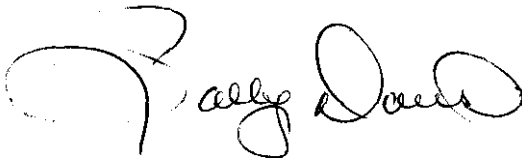
Dear Dr. Taylor:

I am writing on the part of the Midwest Alliance for Telehealth and Technology Resources (MATTeR) to express support for the State of Michigan's response to the Federal Communications Commission Rural Health Care Pilot Program.

Telehealth programs that include clinical consultations and distance learning for healthcare professionals are very important mechanisms to facilitate access to and delivery of healthcare services in rural Michigan communities. In addition, Michigan is on the leading edge of implementing technologies focused on Health Information Exchange. Expansion of the telecommunications infrastructure in the state is vital to the system of healthcare in Michigan

As a telehealth resource center funded by the Office for the Advancement of Telehealth; Health Resources and Services Administration/DHHS, the mission of MATTeR is to help organizations create sustainable telehealth services in rural and underserved communities. We are prepared to support and contribute to the efforts of the Michigan Department of Community Health and The Michigan Department of Information Technology in our common goal of improving the health of Michigan residents.

Sincerely,



Sally Davis, MA
Principal Investigator

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

Michigan State University
College of Communication
Arts and Sciences
517 355-3410

University of Kansas
Center for
Telemedicine & Telehealth
913 5852226

Regenstrief Center for
Healthcare Engineering
Purdue University
765 494-9828



Matthew L. Boulton, MD, MPH

Associate Professor
of Epidemiology

Associate Dean for Practice

Director, Preventive
Medicine Residency

April 23, 2007

Dr. Jeffrey Taylor, Executive Director
Michigan Public Health Institute
Central Administration
2436 Woodlake Circle Drive, Suite 300
Okemos, MI 48864

Dear Dr. Taylor:

I am writing on behalf of the University of Michigan Health System (UMHS) to confirm our support for the State of Michigan's application for a Federal Communications Commission pilot project to expand state and regional broadband networks and services in rural underserved areas of Michigan.

UMHS strives to be a leader in education and in advancing medical and health science. Each year, the UMHS treats more than one million outpatients, provides at least 36,000 hospital visits, conducts hundreds of scientific research projects and educates the next generation of medical professionals. The unique breadth of a topranked health system allows us to eschew traditional boundaries to collaborate with experts across disciplines and develop novel approaches to health care delivery.

Health care practitioners in rural areas often times have limited access to much needed resources. The opportunity to become informed on the use and application of the newest medications, essential patient and family teaching and to check potential drug-drug interactions is often hampered in rural and medically underserved communities because specialists frequently reside in more urban settings. Improving access to information technology resources in rural communities can help improve quality of care for patients, while improving efficiency in the delivery of care and keeping costs down.

The central goal of the FCC project is to broadband internet access to the public hospitals and primary care clinics serving critical populations will improve quality of care and potentially lower healthcare costs for the entire state.

We are excited about the leadership role that the State of Michigan *is* taking in this effort to strengthen healthcare through the use of information technology in Michigan and are committed to supporting and participating in the collaborative efforts of MDCH and MDIT to further the overall goal of improved healthcare in Michigan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matthew L. Boulton', written over a horizontal line.

Matthew L. Boulton

(734) 764-6471

(734) 764-9293fa:

sph.practice@umich.edu

www.umsphpractice.org

109 Observatory Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-2021

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

April 19, 2007

Dr. Jeffrey Taylor, Executive Director
Michigan Public Health Institute
Central Administration
2436 Woodlake Circle Drive, Suite 300
Okemos, MI 48864

Dear Dr. Taylor:

I am writing on behalf of the Michigan State University College of Human Medicine (CHM) to confirm our support for the State of Michigan's application for a Federal Communications Commission pilot project to expand state and regional broadband networks and services in rural underserved areas of Michigan. The primary goal of the FCC project is to improve healthcare for all Michiganders by taking specific aim at addressing the medically underserved. Bringing broadband internet access to the public hospitals and primary care clinics serving critical populations will improve quality of care and potentially lower healthcare costs for the entire state.



COLLEGE OF HUMAN MEDICINE

Office of the Dean

Michigan State University
East Fee Hall
East Lansing, MI
48824-1316
517/353-1730
FAX: 517/355-0342

As you know, Michigan State University has a national reputation for its history of innovation and excellence in medical student education. More than 3,100 M.D. graduates of CHM have experienced a unique combination of basic science education on the campus of a large, land-grant University, and clinical education in one of six campuses located across the state of Michigan. The College of Human Medicine is committed to educating exemplary physicians and scholars, discovering and disseminating new knowledge, and providing service at home and abroad. We enhance our communities by providing outstanding primary and specialty care, promoting the dignity and inclusion of all people, and responding to the needs of the medically underserved.

Health care practitioners in rural areas can often times have limited access to expert consultants and resource knowledge bases. The opportunity to become informed on the use and application of the newest medications, essential patient and family teaching, and to check potential drug-drug interactions is often hampered in rural and medically underserved communities because specialists frequently reside in more urban settings. While many knowledge bases are available on line, there are limitations in rural and medically underserved areas because of the digital divide, or a lack of access to information technology resources in rural communities.

Dr. Jeffrey Taylor
April 19, 2007

We are excited about the leadership role that the State **of** Michigan is taking in HIE and are committed to supporting and participating in the collaborative efforts of MDCH and MDIT to further the overall goal of improved healthcare in Michigan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Denise Holmes". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Denise" being more prominent than the last name "Holmes".

Denise Holmes
Assistant Dean for Government Relations and Outreach
College **of** Human Medicine
Michigan State University
A1 17 East Fee Hall
East Lansing, MI 48824-1316



North Central Council

Michigan Health & Hospital Association

April 2, 2007

APR 2 0 2007

616 Petoskey Street, Suite 208

Petoskey, MI 49770

231.439.9812

Fax 231.439.9813

Elizabeth Gertz, Executive Director

Dr. Jeffrey Taylor, Executive Director
Michigan Public Health Institute
Central Administration
2436 Woodlake Circle Drive, Suite 300
Okemos, MI 48864

RE: FCC Telemedicine Pilot Program

Dear Dr. Taylor,

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Alpena General Hospital
Alpena

Charlevoix Area Hospital
Charlevoix

Cheboygan Memorial Hospital
Cheboygan

Kalkaska Memorial Health Center
Kalkaska

Elanau Memorial Health Center
Northport

Mercy Hospital Cadillac
Cadillac

Mercy Hospital Grayling
Grayling

Munson Medical Center
Traverse City

Northern Michigan Hospital
Petoskey

Oshtemo Memorial Hospital
Gaylord

Paul Oliver Memorial Hospital
Frankfort

West Branch Regional Medical Center
West Branch

West Shore Medical Center
Manistee

On behalf of the rural hospitals and communities they serve in northern Lower Michigan, the North Central Council (NCC) is pleased to support the State of Michigan's application for a Federal Communications Commission pilot project to expand state and regional broadband networks and services in rural underserved areas of Michigan.

The NCC is a non-profit association of thirteen hospitals and health systems in the 21-county region of northern Lower Michigan. The NCC serves as a regional unifying voice and presence for patients, hospitals and health systems in northern Michigan by facilitating collaboration among providers, providing a forum for communication and education on key health issues, and promoting policy that ensures access to high quality and affordable health care.

Rural providers in northern Lower Michigan recognize that in order to acquire, support, and maintain health information technologies, providers must collaborate and any efforts must provide value to those stakeholders committing resources to the initiative. With the support of the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) and the Michigan Department of Information Technology (MDIT), the NCC member hospitals recently engaged other clinical providers throughout the region to share resources in the development of a Regional Health Information Exchange (HIE).

This HIE project and the FCC's pilot project share a similar goal: to improve healthcare for all Michiganders by taking specific aim at expanding broadband networks dedicated to healthcare in rural areas. Bringing broadband internet access to the public hospitals and primary care clinics serving critical populations will improve quality of care and potentially lower healthcare costs for the entire state.



A Voice for Better Health.

The NCC member hospitals include three Rural Referral Centers (Munson Medical Center in Traverse City, Northern Michigan Hospital in Petoskey and Alpena Regional Medical Center); three Critical Access Hospitals (Charlevoix Area Hospital, Paul Oliver Memorial Hospital in Frankfort and Kalkaska Memorial Health Center); and seven Sole Community Hospitals (Cheboygan Memorial Hospital, Otsego Memorial Hospital in Gaylord, Mercy Hospital Cadillac, Mercy Hospital Grayling, West Shore Medical Center in Manistee, West Branch Regional Medical Center and St. Joseph Health System in Tawas). These thirteen hospitals represent the “hubs” of the rural health care delivery system and are therefore the primary stakeholders for the successful implementation of a regional HIE. The hospitals recognize that a successful HIE will only be possible with the support and cooperation from the primary and specialty care clinical providers in their community.

Due to the cooperative nature of the rural health care delivery system in northern Lower Michigan, many of the smaller hospitals in the region have employed primary care physician practices, rural health clinics or community health centers that provide the “spokes” in the rural health care delivery system. The larger rural referral center hospitals have existing relationships with a variety of clinical specialty care practices and in some cases have established connectivity with those practices. The hospitals in the region have historically worked collaboratively with local health departments on regional initiatives related to community health assessment and health improvement. This history of collaboration locally and regionally will lead to a Regional HIE that is open to the entire community.

We are excited about the leadership role that the State of Michigan is taking in HIE and are committed to supporting and participating in the collaborative efforts of MDCH and MDIT to further the overall goal of improved healthcare in Michigan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth Gertz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Elizabeth" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Gertz".

Elizabeth Gertz
Executive Director

Northern Michigan HOSPITAL

116 Connable Avenue
Petoskey, Michigan 49770
231.487.4000
www.northernhealth.org

April 30, 2007

Dr. Jeffrey Taylor, Executive Director
Michigan Public Health Institute
Central Administration
2436 Woodlake Circle Drive, Suite 300
Okemos, MI 48864

Dear Dr. Taylor:

On behalf of the 1,600 employee colleagues of Northern Michigan Hospital, we are writing in support of the State of Michigan's application for a Federal Communications Commission pilot project to expand state and regional broadband networks and services in rural underserved areas of Michigan.

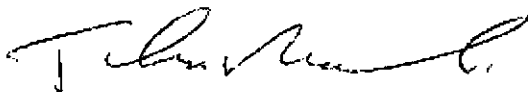
Northern Michigan Hospital is a 243-bed, regional referral center serving residents in 24 counties across northern Lower Michigan and the eastern Upper Peninsula. A medical staff of 171 physicians represents nearly all medical and surgical specialties enabling full-service care with an emphasis on heart, cancer, orthopedics and neuroscience services.

Rural providers, including Northern Michigan Hospital, recognize that in order to acquire, support and maintain health information technologies, providers must collaborate and any efforts must provide value to those stakeholders committing resources to the initiative. With the support of the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) and the Michigan Department of Information Technology (MDIT), the North Central Council, of which we are a member, recently engaged clinical providers throughout the region to share resources in the development of a Regional Health Information Exchange (HIE).

This HIE project and the FCC's pilot project share the goal of improving healthcare for all Michiganians by taking specific aim at expanding broadband networks dedicated to healthcare in rural areas. Bringing broadband internet access to the public hospitals and primary care clinics serving critical populations

We look forward to supporting and participating in the collaborative efforts of MDCH and MDIT to further the overall goal of improved healthcare in Michigan.

Sincerely,



Thomas C. Mroczkowski
President and CEO



University of Michigan
Health System
300 N Zeeb Road, 377-1300 • 48106-1171

April 30, 2007

Dr. Jeffrey Taylor, Executive Director
Michigan Public Health Institute
Central Administration
2436 Woodlake Circle Drive, Suite 300
Okemos, MI 48864

Dear Dr. Taylor:

I am writing to reinforce the full support of the University of Michigan Health System's (UMHS) Telemedicine Resource Center for the State of Michigan's application for a Federal Communications Commission pilot project to expand state and regional broadband networks and services in rural underserved areas of Michigan.

The UMHS utilizes telemedicine to extend the reach of its clinical and scientific expertise throughout Michigan. It promotes appropriate use and accessibility to the UMHS services and expertise for patients and their families; it enhances collaboration and coordination between referring providers throughout the State and consulting providers at the UMHS; it expands the scope of continuing medical education; and it provides support for UMHS faculty, students and staff in utilizing sophisticated information technology in patient care, management and research.

Funding from this project will allow the UMHS to reduce barriers to telemedicine in rural areas. Improving high speed access to rural hospitals and clinics will help bridge the last mile of connectivity to chronically medically underserved areas. The UMHS, along with other health care partners across the state, will be able to more fully leverage its health care resources to benefit Michigan's rural health care providers and patients.

We are excited about the leadership role that the State of Michigan is taking in HIE and are committed to supporting and participating in the collaborative efforts of MDCH and MDIT to further the overall goal of improved healthcare in Michigan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Eric Kratochwill'.

Eric Kratochwill
Administrative Director
Telemedicine Resource Center

April 30, 2007

Dr. Jeffrey Taylor, Executive Director
Michigan Public Health Institute
Central Administration
2436 Woodlake Circle Drive, Suite 300
Okemos, MI 48864

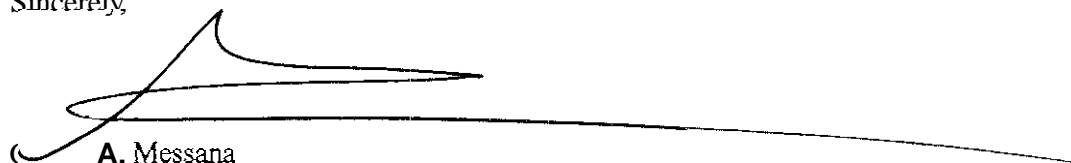
Dear Dr. Taylor:

The Upper Peninsula Health Care Network is pleased to offer support for the State of Michigan's proposal to the Federal Communications Commission Rural Health Care Pilot Program. Here in the Upper Peninsula, we realize ~~first~~ hand the challenges of health care delivery for our rural residents.

In response to these challenges, the Upper Peninsula has led the state in developing telehealth programming and health information exchange. Recognizing the dependencies between these applications and broadband service, we would look forward to extension and enhancements of telecommunications infrastructure in this region.

Best wishes for **success** in the application process. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,



A. Messina

Executive Director

CC: John P. Tembreull, President - Upper Peninsula Health Care Network



MECOSTA COUNTY MEDICAL CENTER

605 Oak Street, Big Rapids, MI 49307

231-796-8691 Fax: 231-592-4421

May 2, 2007

Jeffrey Taylor, PhD
Executive Director
Michigan Public Health Institute
Central Administration
2436 Woodlake Circle Drive, Suite 300
Okemos, MI 48864

Dear Dr. Taylor,

Please accept this letter from Mecosta County Medical Center in support of the application being submitted to the FCC by a project team of professionals from the Michigan Department of Community Health, the Michigan Department of Information Technology, and the Michigan Public Health Institute for funding under a new FCC pilot project that supports the construction of state or regional broadband networks and services over those networks. A state or regional broadband network would bring the benefits of telemedicine services to assist with quality improvements and efficiency in the health care system enabling physicians and hospitals to get needed clinical and patient information at the point of service.

We also appreciate the efforts of the Alliance for Health in coordinating the development of a regional information exchange in West Michigan (13 counties) with the goal to improve healthcare for all residents by addressing the medically underserved by bringing broadband internet access to the public hospitals and primary care clinics that will provide health care practitioners in our rural areas access to expert consultants and resources. A state with a regional broadband network can potentially lower healthcare cost, which is imperative at a time when healthcare is facing reductions in reimbursement in Medicaid and Medicare.

Please accept this letter as support for the application.

Yours in health,

Thomas E. Daugherty, CEO
TED/cs

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May 3, 2007

Kelly K. Coyle, J.D.
Project Operations Manager, ISG
Privacy Officer, MPHI
2440 Jolly Road, Suite 150
Okemos, MI 48864

Dear Ms. Coyle:

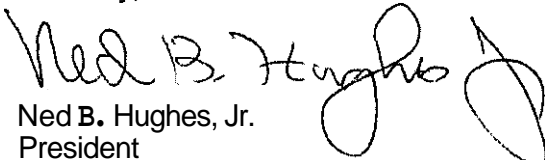
It is my understanding that an application is being submitted to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) by a broad based Michigan team that is seeking funding under a new FCC pilot project that supports the construction of broadband networks, and services over those networks. This project would support badly needed telemedicine services to underserved rural areas.

The State of Michigan is focused on using information technology to enhance quality improvements and efficiency in its health care System. Governor Granholm has an intense interest in this approach and our state enacted legislation to support regional health information exchanges within medical trading areas. The Michigan Health Information Network (MiHIN) has developed a very comprehensive process to both assist physicians in receiving clinical information and to allow Michigan citizens to have reasonable access to their information.

A regional information exchange in 13 counties in West Michigan is being established through the efforts of the Alliance for Health, and Gerber Memorial Health Services is in total support of this effort. We are also extremely pleased with the leadership role that the State of Michigan is taking in health information exchange and we are in very pleased with the collaborative efforts of MDCH and MDIT.

Gerber Memorial is in total support of this application and would be pleased to participate in this unique effort.

Sincerely,


Ned B. Hughes, Jr.
President